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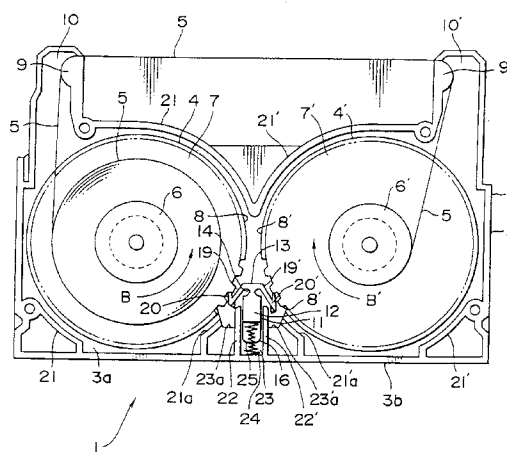
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Reel lock mechanism for tape cassette.

The tape cassette reel lock mechanism locks a pair of tape reels (6,6') against rotation the a tape cassette to prevent a tape wound around the tape reels from being loosened. The mechanism has a reel lock assembly (1) movable between a lock position to lock the tape reels against rotation and an unlock position to unlock the tape reels for rotation. The reel lock assembly includes a slider (12) supported in the tape cassette, a lock body (13) having a pair of engaging members (20,20') engageable with teeth (8) on outer circumferential edges of the tape reels, and a twistable joint (14), the slider and the lock body being integrally to each other by the twistable joint. When one of the tape reels is turned in a direction to loosen the tape, one of the engaging members is displaced by one of the teeth on the one of the tape reels, twisting the joint to press the other engaging member against one of the teeth on the other tape reel for thereby turning the other tape reel in a direction to tension the tape.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 40 2803

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	US-A-5 146 380 (H.FUJII ET AL) * column 3, line 6 - column 6, line 7; figures *	1,2,4-7	G11B23/087
X A	EP-A-0 411 622 (SHAPE INC.) * column 4, line 6 - line 28; figures * * column 5, line 23 - column 8, line 48 *	1-3 7	
A	GB-A-2 099 400 (NIPPON VICTOR K.K.) * abstract; figures *	1	
A	GB-A-2 020 628 (SONY CORP.) * page 2, line 71 - page 3, line 21; figures 6,7 *	1	
A	DE-A-33 17 566 (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO. LTD.) * page 5, line 23 - line 30; figure 4 *	1,2,5	
A	DE-A-42 05 038 (SONY CORP.) * abstract; figures *	1,2,5	
A	GB-A-2 131 769 (N.V.PHILIPS) * page 4, line 95 - line 126; figure 4 *	1,2	
A	FR-A-2 508 223 (SONY CORP.)		
A	GB-A-2 192 610 (SONY CORP.)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 June 1994	Examiner Declat, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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